

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-12, and 25-38 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 7, and 9-12 are amended, Claims 6, 8, and 13-24 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new Claims 27-38 are added by the present amendment. As amended Claims 1, 3, 7, and 9-12 and new Claims 27-38 are supported by the original claims, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claim 1 was objected to because of informalities; Claims 1 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,615,385, hereinafter “Kim”) in view of Yi (U.S. Patent No. 5,907,582); Claims 2-5 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kim in view of Yi and further in view of Haller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,261); Claims 6, 9, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kim in view of Yi and further in view of Zhang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,709, hereinafter “Zhang”); Claims 2-5 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kim in view of Yi and Zhang and further in view of Doetsch et al (WO 99/11009). Claims 8 and 13-24 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 8 and 13-24 include allowable subject matter.

Claim 3 is amended to correct an informality.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kim in view of Yi, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter recited in Claims 6 and 8. As Claim 8 was indicated as including allowable subject matter, Claim 1 (and Claims 2-5, 7, 9-12, 25, and 26 dependent therefrom) is believed to be allowable.

New Claim 27 includes the subject matter of Claims 1, 6, and 13. As Claim 13 was indicated as including allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that new Claim 27 (and new Claims 28-38 dependent therefrom) is allowable.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

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